

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ASMARA 00674 081037Z

15

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P 080930Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3490

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

S E C R E T ASMARA 0674

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: CISCO TWO

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 9463 B. KHARTOUM 1804 C. ASMARA 0645

D. ASK 3837 E. ADDIS ABABA 9323 F. ASMARA 0659

G. ASMARA 0593

1. CONGEN FINDS OSMAN SALEH SABBEH STATEMENT, REPORTED REF A, BOTH CREDIBLE AND ENCOURAGING, ALTHOUGH MORE IN CONTEXT INSURGENT POLICY TOWARD US AND AMERICANS IN GENERAL THAN IMMEDIATELY IN CISCO TWO CASE. SABBE STATEMENT TENDS TO REINFORCE EARLIER CONGEN INFORMATION TO EFFECT THAT PLF HAS NEVER UTILIZED KIDNAPPING OR EXTORTION, AS HAS ELF, AS MEANS OF FUNDING ITS ACTIVITIES. FOREIGN SUPPORTERS OF PLF HAVE, ACCORDING TO LOCAL SOURCES, GENERALLY PROVIDED ENOUGH CASH, IN ADDITION TO ARMS, FOOD, AND OTHER SUPPLIES, TO ENABLE PLF TO MEET ITS EXPENSES. THIS HAS NOT, IT APPEARS, BEEN TRUE OF THE ELF WHICH, BEING FAR MORE LOOSELY ORGANIZED AND DISPERSED, AND APPARENTLY WITH MORE PARSIMONIOUS FOREIGN SUPPORTERS, HAS HAD TO RESORT TO OTHER TACTICS TO RAISE CASH.

2. I YESTERDAY AGAIN QUESTIONED LOCAL EMPLOYEE AT TRACT D WHO AGAIN INSISTED THAT GUNMAN ON DAY OF ABDUCTION DEFINITELY ANNOUNCED, IN TIGRINYA, THAT HE REPRESENTED PLF. NEVERTHELESS,

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BELIEVE WE HAVE ENOUGH COLLATERAL EVIDENCE (REFS A, B AND C)

TO BE ABLE NOW TO ASSUME IT WAS, IN FACT, ELF WHICH EFFECTED
ABDUCTION.

3. AS FOR AHMED NASSER COMMENTS ON REASONS FOR ABDUCTION,
REPORTED REF D, CONGEN CANNOT BUT REGARD THESE AS
REPRESENTING PERSONAL VIEWS OF NASSER HIMSELF. IF HE DOES
NOT KNOW WHICH UNIT HOLDING COSCO TWO OR WHERE THEY ARE, AND
IF HE CANNOT COMMUNICATE WITH ELF FIELD UNITS, HE CAN
SCARCELY BE PRIVY TO ACTUAL MOTIVATION BEHIND GIVEN UNIT'S
ACTION. HOWEVER, WHATEVER THE TRUE REASONS FOR THE
ABDUCTION, OR DISAPPEARANCE, I AM INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT
THE EXTERNAL ELF POLITICAL LEADERSHIP WILL ATTEMPT TO
CAPITALIZE ON EVENT AND USE IT AS BASIS FOR POLITICAL
DEMANDS UNLESS UNIT INVOLVED RELEASES CISCO TWO
ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE.

4. NO RPT NO RANSOM DEMANDS (PARA 2 REF A) AS YET MADE TO ANY
KAGNEW ELEMENT OR TO CONGEN.

5. AS REPORTED REFS F AND G, I BELIEVE PRESENT
SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS ADEQUATE AND HAVE SERIOUS
RESERVATIONS ABOUT REQUESTING ADDITIONAL PROTECTION FOR
ANY KAGNEW SITES OR CONGEN UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.
WILL, OF COURSE, BE PREPARED TO REVIEW THIS QUESTION WITH
DCM TIENKEN DURING HIS VISIT NEXT WEEK TO ASMARA, AS
SUGGESTED REF E.

SHERRY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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